

Please add new claims 10 and 11 as follows:

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but 10. (New) A fiber array housing a stripped fiber in a V-groove of a V-groove substrate comprising:

a fiber fixing substrate fixing said stripped fiber; and

a peripheral adhesive disposed around said stripped fiber;

wherein an end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed a depth  $x$  with respect to an end face of said fiber; and

wherein said recess depth  $x$  is related to a water absorption ratio  $\phi$  of said peripheral adhesive and a length  $L$  over which said optical fiber is adhered to said V-groove by the equation  $x = 0.1(\phi L)/2$ .

11. (New) The fiber array according to claim 10, wherein said recess depth  $x$  is at least  $0.1\mu\text{m}$ .

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**In the Abstract:**

Attached hereto as page 10, pursuant to Rule 1.121(b)(1)(ii) is a clean version of the Abstract incorporating the changes being made thereto. Please replace the original Abstract with the new Abstract attached as page 10. Attached hereto as page 11, pursuant to Rule 1.121(b)(1)(iii), is a marked-up version of the Abstract showing changes being made thereto.